

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED
MTN.GNS/W/273
15 December 1993
Special Distribution

(UR-93-0259)

Group of Negotiations on Services

Original: English

COMMUNICATION FROM THE NORDIC COUNTRIES
(FINLAND, ICELAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN)

Statement on Maritime Transport Services

The following communication is circulated at the request of the Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) to members of the Group of Negotiations on Services.

A number of countries have tabled scheduled commitments or MFN exemptions concerning international maritime transport, which may affect such transport between the Nordic countries and other countries.

It is our understanding of the Agreement that Article XXIII on Dispute Settlement and Enforcement prevails, without regard to any rights as requested through an MFN exemption. This applies in particular to any such right to take unilateral retaliatory action against perceived unfavourable conditions in international shipping trade.

It is furthermore our understanding that any restriction, which may have been set out in the schedule or by an MFN exemption of any country, is without prejudice to our right to exercise competition policy competence on maritime transport between that country and ourselves.